

Washington Sentinel.

EDITED BY
WM. M. OVERTON, CH. MAURICE SMITH,
AND BEVERLY TUCKER.
CITY OF WASHINGTON.
JUNE 14, 1854.

O. H. P. STEIN, is our authorized agent for collecting accounts due this office, and for obtaining new subscribers in Virginia.

GEORGE W. MEARSON is our authorized agent to receive subscriptions and advertisements in Washington, Georgetown and Alexandria.

CONGRESS.

In the Senate, yesterday, after the usual morning business, the vetoed Indigent Insane bill was taken up, and Mr. Cass for over an hour addressed the Senate in opposition to the bill, and in support of the veto message of the President. Mr. Clayton has the floor for today on the same subject.

In the House of Representatives, on motion of Mr. McDougal, the chairman of the select committee on the subject, the further consideration of the Pacific railroad bill was postponed until the second Monday in December next. The House went into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, and took up the general appropriation bill, when Messrs. Walbridge, and Davis, of Indiana, severally expressed their views in favor of the construction of a railroad to the Pacific.

The House, by a vote of yeas 100, nays 32—laid on the table the resolution of Mr. Giddings, heretofore offered, proposing to elect the editor of the Union from the hall, in consequence of a communication published in that paper last Thursday, with reference to his public conduct and that of others.

Hon. Wm. R. Sapp is, we have been requested to say, confined to his room by indisposition, and will not, probably, be able to resume his seat in the House during the present week.

THE PACIFIC RAILROAD.

Yesterday the House of Representatives postponed the Pacific railroad bill until the second Monday in December. This movement disposes of that measure for the present session, and affords every assurance that we will not be soon troubled by its consideration, and that the transaction of the public business will not be delayed by it.

The course which Mr. McDougal, of California, who had the bill in charge, pursued during the pendency of the Nebraska bill is worthy of all praise. He consented to the postponement of the railroad bill rather than it should be used by bad men to prevent the settlement of a great question intimately connected with the peace and quiet of the country. Yesterday he proposed that it be postponed until the second Monday in December, so that the reports of surveys might be laid before the country, and an opportunity might be afforded for thorough investigation and intelligent action on the subject.

We have not the bill before us as it has been recently modified, so that we do not pretend to give a synopsis of its provisions. Yet we cannot but feel gratified that it has been disposed of for the present by an unanimous vote of the House of Representatives. Our opinions with regard to a railroad communication with the Pacific have been stated too often to need repetition at the present time. When the subject comes up again, it will be soon enough to repeat them. It is plain, however, that no matter what might be the features of the Pacific railroad bill reported by the select committee, of which Mr. McDougal is chairman, its consideration would have given rise to a long and vexatious discussion, which could produce no practical result. A long series of amendments and substitutes would have been offered, notwithstanding the fact that Congress was not in possession of the means to arrive at a rational and safe conclusion, even as to the routes which are practicable, and the cost of constructing a road on them.

THE DAY FOR THE MEETING FOR CONGRESS.

A few days ago a proposition was made in Congress that in future its session should begin in the month of October instead of December. We have seen it stated that the Constitution required that the first Monday in December should not be departed from as the day of the assembling of the national legislature.

This is a mistake. The Constitution specifies the first Monday of December, but it gives Congress the right to fix upon another day if it should see fit to do so. In the beginning, it was absolutely necessary to specify a time of meeting. Otherwise the first Congress could not have been convened at all. But afterwards the necessity did not exist, for Congress once in session could determine their future meetings being constrained only to hold a session every year.

We have not thought of the subject sufficiently to form an opinion as to whether Congress had better convene in October rather than in December. The remarks which we have made are intended only to correct the misapprehensions which we perceive exist in some quarters as to the provisions of the Constitution in this particular. This is the language used in the Constitution; and we think that it is perfectly plain: "The Congress shall assemble at least once in every year, and such meeting shall be on the first Monday in December, unless they shall by law appoint a different day."

DRAMATIC READINGS.

It will be seen from the advertisement in another column, that Miss E. W. White, of Richmond, proposes to give an entertainment of this character on next Thursday night. She is very highly spoken of, and has met with great success wherever she has appeared in public. We will take occasion to-morrow to speak more in detail of her performance.

MURDER AND MURDER—Last Sunday evening Captain Mann and mate, of the British brigantine Catherine Sharer, St. John's, N. B., now lying in the North river, off Bedlow's island, made complaint that the crew of their ship had been guilty of mutiny and murder. The crew endeavored to leave the vessel, and being prevented by the watchman in charge, they threw him overboard, and he was drowned. Five of the crew were arrested as accomplices. The man who committed the murder escaped to the shore.

WASHINGTON FABRICATIONS AND GOSSIP.

Innocent people who live away from the atmosphere of Washington can form no idea of the bold, unblushing, and unfounded tales that are fabricated here and circulated by many of the Washington correspondents of the freest journals. They affect to know everything, and they construct their calumnies with so much skill and with such a regard to circumstantiality that they impose upon the credulity of unsuspecting people. They affect to be familiar with the secret, unrevealed purposes of all the prominent men. They claim to be acquainted with the secrets developed in the most private conferences. They pretend that they are cognizant of all that is said by the President and the cabinet in their most private consultations. Sometimes they make a hit—sometimes they guess at what actually afterwards occurs—sometimes they manage by hook or by crook, by money or by circumvention, to get a secret out of a leaky vessel, and they publish it with a great flourish of trumpets. But where one truth is told, a hundred perfectly unfounded rumors are started by them.

Now some of these people are experienced politicians, sagacious men, and are on terms of intimacy with leading politicians. They thus bear of many things that they circulate, and guess at many more.

But the worst class of these people is composed of those who have no regard for the truth, so that they can make a readable paragraph. These people scatter falsehoods all over the country. The Tribune is more distinguished for its unscrupulous corps of contributors than any other paper in the country. A libel on the south and a calumny on a southern man, are looked upon by these people as perfectly right and proper. They look upon southern men as fair game, and do not hesitate to fabricate any falsehood to injure them. We very seldom pay any attention to their idle gossip, but one of the correspondents of the New York Express, from which we might expect better things, has found such a wonderful man's nest, that we are tempted to give some extracts from his letter. He says, under date of June 10th:

"A distinguished senator, for a quarter of a century in the public councils, is thoroughly convinced that the ultra southern party is determined to obtain possession of Cuba, and after that to separate from the northern States. He is not an alarmist, but an experienced, cool-headed, and sagacious statesman, of the conservative school, and a decided opponent of the fanatics of every section. His opinion is therefore of the highest value, as the conviction of a man of great shrewdness, of no sectional prejudices, and a decided enemy of the agitation of the slavery question."

Again, he says:

"The secessionists have undoubtedly made great accessions to their ranks during the last two years, and now comprise a large portion of the talent, wealth, and influence of the South. Every case of resistance to the fugitive slave law at the North adds thousands to their number, and they openly rejoice at the recent abolition demonstration in Boston. Their plan is to seize upon Cuba and enough of Mexico to connect California by the southern route with their new republic. For they regard California as essentially southern in all but the name, and point with exultation to her unbroken front in both Houses on the Nebraska question. The census shows a population in that State of 22,000 from the slave States, and 24,000 from the free States. The native Californians, 6,000 strong, and at least half of the foreigners, 22,000 strong, are expected to unite with the South, and thus secure to that section the control of the State."

"The secessionists are not without hope that the southern sections of Illinois and Michigan may prove friendly to their scheme. There are 30,000 citizens of Indiana southern by birth, and 80,000 more from Kentucky and Tennessee. In Illinois there are 50,000 of southern birth, and 82,000 from Kentucky and Tennessee. Both Illinois and Indiana send delegates to the late southern convention held at Charleston in April. A significant fact."

"Kansas, as we have seen by a glance at the map, is within a day's ride, by railway, of the Gulf of Mexico. Kansas, therefore, is relied upon as a future member of the southern republic."

The writer then speculates as to whether certain prominent statesmen of the free States would or would not remove to the South.

Now all this ingenious and elaborate story is made out of the fact that a senator, whose name is not given, entertains such an opinion. The idea of the senator being mistaken is not for an instant entertained. Such a gigantic scheme requires gigantic testimony to sustain it, it would seem to us. But we may be wrong.

Well, we prefer big to little inventions. They are more harmless, for they carry absurdity on their face.

SOME OF THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

These latter days have presented us with as many political, religious, and social irregularities as perhaps ever sprung up within the same period of time. With a large and rapidly increasing population, compounded of all diversities of men and from every part of the globe—men of every hue, tongue, religion, and political creed, we might naturally expect much of incongruity and antagonism. We might naturally expect to see strange ideas and theories on all subjects, and fanatics and agitators of every kind. Religion seems to vie with politics in presenting itself in diverse and protean forms. There is every form of heresy in both. There are bran new systems, and old broken down systems re-vamped. We have quarrels between native Americans and foreigners, and fights between Catholics and protestants. We see every kind of secret organization prevailing. There is a restless longing among the masses, especially in our large northern cities, after novelty and change. Each sect would propagate its tenets by means of mobs, violence, and lawlessness. The only freedom from law, which is the worst kind of tyranny. Many, it they were allowed their way, would renew in this new and free country the religious wars that prevailed in Europe a century or two ago, and which left blight and desolation wherever they occurred.

We leave it to other and wiser heads to devise and apply the corrective to these evils. To cure them all would require a wise physician and a potent panacea.

But from these things we turn with much of pleasure to the contemplation of other recent occurrences of a different nature. We have seen the Constitution of the country and the good faith of the nation vindicated in two signal instances. They were not done in a corner. They did not occur in the secrecy of the night and removed from the observation of

men. The constitutional doctrine of non intervention was solemnly, publicly, and in the midst of much excitement, asserted by the joint action of Congress and the Executive. Scarcely had the artillery that celebrated its passage died on the ear, before the same Constitution was firmly vindicated in the effective enforcement of the fugitive slave law.

In a large and growing country like ours, scarcely a month passes without giving rise to some great matter either of foreign or domestic policy. Some of those of recent occurrence we will advert to. The trade of a great empire, that has lain for ages in isolated seclusion, is about to contribute to our national prosperity. Commodore Perry has succeeded in negotiating an arrangement by which several of the ports of Japan will be opened to the trade of the world.

Circumstances have arisen that have served to precipitate action in regard to the island of Cuba. Occurrences familiar to all have lately taken place that have more distinctly developed, than it ever before was developed, the fixed purpose of the United States to acquire Cuba.

The republic of Dominica is looking anxiously to us for recognition. A republic composed of brave, gallant, and enlightened men, and on our continent too, ought not long to be permitted to sue in vain. Honduras and the Sandwich Islands, nothing daunted by their former failures are pleading with us for annexation.

The old nations of Europe which formerly sneered at us as an upstart and a pretender are just beginning to find out that we have a destiny, and that we have the will and the power to work it out.

We have bestowed but a hasty glance at the more prominent developments, and the more important signs of the times. Some of these signs are bad enough in all conscience—others are truly encouraging. If parents would pay more attention to the morals and minds of their growing children, if legal tribunals would firmly and faithfully execute the laws, if all men in authority, whether Federal, State, or municipal, would promptly punish all lawless outbreaks, and if politicians would rebuke and denounce fanatics, agitators, abolitionists, and incendiaries, instead of seeking for their support, there would be but little danger to be apprehended from those bad signs of the times to which we first adverted.

THE ABOLITIONISTS.

To see the more than mad-dog insanity of these people, one need but look at their daily doings. The New York Herald, in its news column, gives the two following instances of their lawlessness and their fanaticism:

"At Milwaukee, on the 6th instant, one of the judges of the supreme court of Wisconsin declared the fugitive slave law unconstitutional. The case was an application for a writ of habeas corpus to release one of the persons charged with participating in the rescue of a fugitive not long since. The court ordered his release. The United States marshal, it is said, will not obey the order of the judge."

"Another instance of the violence of the abolitionists occurred in Otago county last week. A negro committed a burglary in Elmira some weeks since, and was arrested in Jersey City. He effected his escape from the jail, and was again arrested in Otago county. The negro told some of the rabid abolitionists that he was a fugitive slave, whereupon some twenty-eight of them, armed with pistols, &c., entered the room where he was imprisoned under charge of the officers, and set him at liberty. The officers remonstrated with the mob, and stated the whole circumstances connected with the arrest, but they persisted in setting him at liberty."

ITEMS OF NEWS.

TABLE-TURNING DETECTOR.—In the course of a lecture delivered lately at the Royal Institute, London, Professor Faraday exhibited the apparatus, with index attached, which he contrived for proving the fallacy of table-turning. It consisted of two small flat pieces of wood, held together by India-rubber strings, and separated by small rollers that allowed the pieces of wood to move freely over each other. The movement of the upper one was shown by an index that pointed to the right or to the left, according to the direction of the motion. This little apparatus, when placed under the hands of a practical table-turner, had the curious effect of paralyzing his power when he looked at the index and thus became conscious of the real movement of his hands; but when the index was concealed from view, the table began to turn as briskly as if the apparatus did not intervene. This proved, to the professor's satisfaction, that the movement of the table was effected by the direct action of the muscles, exerted involuntarily.

SHIPWRECK CITY OF GLASGOW.—The Portland papers of last Friday contain the arrival of the brig Saginaw, from Trinidad, whence she sailed on the 13th ult. The Saginaw reports as follows: "On the 6th inst. at 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, m. discovered, at considerable distance to leeward, what appeared to be a steamship; at 5 p. m. she was again seen; she looked like one of the Liverpool steamers, and appeared to be abandoned; they bore down for her, but the wind soon died away, and the fog shut down thick, when they lost sight of her; she was not to be seen the next morning. Captain P. thinks it was the City of Glasgow, but was not near enough to ascertain to a certainty."

THE ROCK ISLAND EXCURSION.—The progress of the mammoth excursion party from the east to the falls of St. Anthony, excites general attention. Everywhere along the line of the route the fire-works are greeted with the firing of cannon, fireworks, processions, dinners, &c.

MR. ELLIOTT, the aeronaut, made another superb ascension in Baltimore on Monday. He passed through and above a storm of thunder and lightning, and came down safely near the city after an absence of an hour from terra firma.

INCIDENT OF THE BROOKLYN RUT.—A clerk of the New York Express office was attacked on board the ferry boat, last Sunday, while crossing to Brooklyn. His nose was broken and his eyes injured by a stone. He was supposed to be a Jew.

PAPERS FROM WASHINGTON TERRITORY.—We are indebted to a friend by a file of the Pioneer and Democrat, published at Olympia. They contain no news of importance.

PERSONAL.—Mr. Hackett went out by the Baltic, on Saturday, to further arrange for his opera enterprise.

POPULATION OF NEW YORK CITY AND SUBURBS WITHIN A RADIUS OF TWENTY MILES, IN 1840, 309,091; in 1850, 740,971; in 1854, 1,020,960.

THE ARMY OF VENEZUELA consists of only one thousand soldiers, while twenty-eight generals and other officers in proportion are on the army list, and are drawing pay.

Letter from California.

The following letter, received by a gentleman of this city from a friend in California, has been handed us for publication. It is written in an easy way, familiar style, and gives some glowing descriptions of "San Francisco as it is."

SAN FRANCISCO, May, 1854.

It is not because I have forgotten myself and your limitless hospitality that I have not written to you long ago; but it is that I have been in the predicament of the "knife-grinder," no story to tell; and I am not in much better condition now—still I feel in better humor with myself and the rest of the race than I have done since I landed on these shores.

My occupations have been various though brief. I have reported a "breach of promise" case for an up-country paper, copied the proceedings of an Odd-Fellows lodge, assorted letters in the post office, surveyed, written squibs for a city newspaper, (the intellectual palate is not very sensitive here) and lastly have been employed for the past two or three days in writing vituperative articles for a passionate old gentleman, who became involved in a personal difficulty, but had not the wit to extricate himself; and I rather doubt if I have accomplished that same either—though I scored his adversary and charged him \$150 for it. He is rich and may be of further use to me. I have been invited to be sort of assistant editor of a paper, but I am rather dubious of my ability, and the support it would afford me. I have been promised a place in the city hall "poco tiempo," and this I all have to say of myself, except that I have not yet blacked boots or donned the white apron of the garcon.

I am much obliged to you for having intrusted me to S. because, *inprimis*, he is a very clever fellow, and then he obtained me passage in a government steamer from San Diego to this place, thereby saving me fifty dollars.

This is probably the fastest town, occupied by the fastest inhabitants, now existing. Men, women, horses, dogs, cats and rats (there are about 100,000 rats for every human being) are running up the street and down the street as if a battalion of devils were after them. A horse and cart runs over a man, and the driver doesn't even stop to see the result. A pile driver mashes a man's foot to a jelly; he is jerked out and the pile driver would mash another the very next second if an opportunity offered, for the accident does not stay its progress a moment of time. If you attempt to cross at the intersection of two streets, the chances are ten to one that you are run over by, at least, four somethings. Everything is done in a hurry. They buy, sell, marry, divorce, and die in a hurry. (There are six hundred divorce cases now waiting the decision of the legislature.)

The stores, places of amusement and resort are the most beautiful and superb I ever saw or imagined. One window of a jeweller's store contains more valuable and splendid ornaments than would buy any Washington shop out of town. Snuff-boxes, \$1,000; watches, \$4,000 and \$5,000; goblets, \$500; cane heads, \$600, and so on. There is a drug store, just one beautifully assorted mass of gold, silver, glass and marble. Gold, silver, and pearl spatulas, with agate handles. Scales of solid silver with agate stand.

Mantua makers have wax models representing the most beautiful and voluptuous women, dressed in the most costly and magnificent manner; so perfect that, five feet off, you could not tell them from models with blood coursing through their bodies. Gold dollars are thrown into a window as something to be looked at simply. I think I saw about half a peck in one window. A dentist has for a sign an immense coral tooth, looking as if it had just been extracted from the gum of a Titan.

A hatter has twenty or thirty hats, elegant hats, suspended in the street before his door, merely to indicate what can be procured within. There they remain until they get rusty, when their places are filled by new ones. The theatre (the "Metropolitan") is the most splendid in the United States. It is formed of splendid mouldings, gold and crimson velvet. Every scene is a meritorious and finished picture, and the stage machinery is all conducted with a view to natural effect. A moon will rise and gradually disappear as the scene in the play may call for. Ships sail as ships should sail; they do not appear and then slide off. Trees do not look as if they could as readily generate brick bats as fruit and leaves; and houses are painted with all regard for the times and places they represent. I have been three times this week to see Madame Bishop, in Norma and Sonnambula. Madame Thillon, Kate Hays, and Madame Bishop are all in San Francisco at this time. When could poor old Washington support such a trio?

You must pay for everything, but as I am not in the mercantile line I will not enumerate a list of prices. I will, however, mention one little incident that occurred yesterday—four strawberries sold at "Robbs" (a famous restaurant) for \$1.25; and all he had sold for \$5 a tumbler, little tumblers containing thirty berries, not a bit larger than those we buy at home for a bit a quart, nor half so good. I ate \$5 worth. About twenty dollars worth would have been a genteel plateful at home.

I have often and often wished that I was in your little sanctum, even if Mrs. — was in a bad humor at the appearance of mysterious hackmen, or C— and E— were holding a duet of their own composition, on the crescent movement; I swear I would never look at California again, even on the map, and I would take it as a personal offence if El Dorado was mentioned in my presence. I am deprived of every social comfort—don't know a lady in the town, live by myself, eat by myself, and firmly believe should die by myself. If you have a friend who is desirous of visiting this region, dissuade him, tell him he had better starve among friends than among strangers.

The day of rapid fortune-making has gone by. You will hear of some incredibly rich men. And, by the by, I am writing at this moment in the room of the richest man in California, Sam E—, his income is \$1,500 per day; but you will find one hundred to one who are poorer than Job after his possessions had been taken from him, for they have not his resignation. Money is really worth at least \$200,000 a year. He gets from the custom house alone, for rent, \$10,000 a month. Three years ago he had his pay, \$1,500 a year.

A la California, I must close in a hurry. I have an engagement at 5 o'clock, and it wants but ten minutes of it.

Eter yours, B. L.

NEW-YORK CORRESPONDENCE.

New from Europe.—Prospects of Peace.—Attitude and Manifest Policy of Austria and Prussia.—Effects of their Predominance.—Improvement in the Money Market.—Delusion in Breadstuffs.—Commentary on the Bread Question.—Our Policy in regard to Cuba.—No time to be lost.—Sunday Street Preaching and Riots in Brooklyn, &c.

NEW-YORK, June 12, 1854.

There is one highly important matter in last night's news from Europe. It is the manifesto of Prussia and Austria, siding with France and England for the preservation of the balance of power in Europe, as they stand. The London Times is somewhat perplexed in its endeavors to define the exact import and intentions of this Germanic proclamation; but from the very critical condition of the German States, in the event of a continuance of the war, there can be no doubt that Austria and Prussia are boldly striking for peace. Peace may save them sometime longer—peace may enable them to smother the smouldering elements of revolution from the mouth of the Rhine to the "seven killed city of the czars;" but a continued state of war will most assuredly rouse up all the republican forces of Germany, Italy, and Hungary, in a movement not provided for in the arrangements among the allied powers. And this is the power behind the thrones, greater than the thrones themselves.

Austria and Prussia are afraid of war; they wish to avoid giving offence to the czar, and they have no desire to invite the armies of France across the Rhine and the Alps, to be engaged in the cause of Nicholas. In either case the territories of Austria and Prussia become the battle-ground of Europe; and from past experience, they have no idea in the world of adding themselves with such an honor, if they can possibly negotiate themselves out of it. Hence, while declaring themselves the allies of France and England, they persist in maintaining the safe ground of mediators between the belligerents.

This attitude of the cabinets of Berlin and Vienna will probably result in renewed overtures for peace, and in a final arrangement with the czar, which will only require him to abandon the Turkish principalities, to leave Turkey unimpaired, and to relinquish his extreme demands in Greece to the communists of the Russo-Greek church in the Turkish dominions. Such are the signs of the times. It is quite possible that, with this new shape which European affairs have assumed, that the war will end in what a Frenchman would designate, "von grand and redoubtable fizzle, by far."

The tardy movements of the allied fleets in the Baltic and the Black seas support this conclusion. Indeed, it is very likely that those fleets are acting under instructions covering the true policy of the allies, not the Napoleonic policy of conquering a peace by a quick and decisive campaign but the policy of frightening Nicholas into terms without the hazard of a general war.

At all events, the governments, the politicians, and the financiers of England and France, now count upon peace. Hence consols have gone up, and provisions and breadstuffs have gone down. The effect has been already felt in Wall street and along our wharves. The bulls are risible to-day, and the bears are beginning to give ground. Stocks, upon the whole, are improving a little, and breadstuffs are declining; and though this news may not be very musical to our bread producers, it is delightful harmony to the bread consumers. The lateness of the season, the damages to the crops in various sections of our country, the tremendous influx of emigrants from Europe, the large exportations of flour and provisions to Europe, would otherwise furnish but a gloomy prospect for "the masses" for the next twelve months to come.

Suppose, for example, that this Russian war should be aggravated into a general European conflagration, involving the consumption or destruction of all the growing crops of the continent. By next December the famine prices of food on the other side of the Atlantic would add tenfold to the emigration to the United States, while at the same time the exportations of breadstuffs and provisions from this country would be increased tenfold, till flour would probably range at the horrid figures of from twenty-five to thirty dollars per barrel. Do you suppose that, should such a state of things be brought about, the swarming thousands of our great cities, reduced to the point of starvation, would consent to perish, while bread was within their reach for themselves and their children? No, sir! In 1833, when flour in this city was raised to \$15 per barrel, by the operations of the speculators, the bank inflations, and their deluge of paper money, the mob rushed to certain stores where flour was packed away by thousands of barrels, and emptied their contents into the streets. In the event of the contingencies above suggested, we might expect such scenes again, and upon a scale which would give to the operations of mob violence something of the aspect of a general revolution.

Hence the bread consumers on this side of the Atlantic feel a lively and paramount interest in the movement of Austria and Prussia for peace. Our producers, perhaps, might prefer the policy of the old Virginia farmer clergyman, who gave as a toast at a public meeting the following: "Here's to a long and moderate war in Europe—one which will not be very destructive to the people there, but which will give our farmers here a lift in the world." My opinion, however, is, that the interests of the farmer are so interwoven with those of all other classes of the community, that where they suffer, he cannot be substantially benefited.

There is a prospect of peace in Europe, and a prospect of a corresponding fall in the substantial life for the inner man, and of a proportionate rise in the article of cotton, that important staple of necessity for the outer man; and if Austria and Prussia remain firm to their adhesion with the western powers, the operations of Dundas and Napier, of Paskievitch and Omar Pasha, of General St. Arnaud and Lord Raglan, will not materially change the present aspect of the question, unless they may contribute to bring Nicholas more speedily to terms.

In the meantime it is evidently the policy of our government to be quick in the settlement of our disagreements with Spain. Should there be a speedy peace with Russia, rely upon it

France and England will be placed in a position of inactivity but little calculated to facilitate an amicable adjustment of the subject matter of our negotiations with the Spanish government. It is while the issues of the Russian war are still uncertain—while the western powers are absorbed in it to the exclusion of all extraneous matters—that we should put in our ultimatum with Spain. If we delay till there is peace with Russia, we may find on some beautiful morning, the Baltic fleet at anchor before Havana, while the Africanization of Cuba is officially proclaimed on the island.

The street preaching yesterday in this city and Brooklyn by a lunatic called the "Angel Gabriel," against the pope and the Irish Catholics, came off without loss of life, although there was considerable fighting in Brooklyn between the Irish and the know-nothings.

The belligerent propensities of the Hibernians at length brought them into collision with the special constabulary, and some twenty or thirty of the ringleaders were arrested. Some fifteen thousand people were in the streets at the height of the melee, and the spectacle for a time was very warlike and disgraceful. Three battalions of troops, held in reserve for the purpose, were at length brought up and dispersed the crowd; but there was no firing, except a volley of pistol shots by the special constables, 150 strong, which shots were comparatively harmless. Only two men were slightly wounded in the head. You may imagine the state of things existing here when the know-nothings are thus led on by a madman to exasperate the impulsive Irish Catholics to violence and bloodshed.

My budget of miscellanies is deferred for a day or two, when you shall have it, unless again superceded by important news from Europe.

UNCLE SAM.

NEW BOOKS.—The Plurality of Worlds, D. D. ESTABLISHED, with an introduction, by Edward Hitchcock, D. D. Rambles in Brazil, or a Peep at the Aztecs, with a map and illustrations. The Religion of the Northmen, by Rudolph Keyser.

The Catcombs of Rome, as illustrating the Church of the Three First Centuries, by Rev. W. Ingraham Kip. Uncle Jerry's Letters to Young Mothers, compiled by Ann E. Porter. The Eternal Day, by H. Bonar, D. D. Discourses and Sayings of our Lord Jesus Christ, translated in a series of expositions, by John Brown, D. D. The Church before the Flood, by the Rev. John Cumming, D. D. Theological Essays, by Frederick Denison Maurice, M. A., with a new preface and other additions. The Sepulchres of our Departed, by F. R. Anstey, Esq., Hagerstown, Md.

The History of the French Protestant Refugees, from the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes to our own days, by Charles Weiss. Translated by Henry Vernon Herbert, Esq., and now, for the first time, in a series of expositions, by John Brown, D. D. The Church before the Flood, by the Rev. John Cumming, D. D. Theological Essays, by Frederick Denison Maurice, M. A., with a new preface and other additions. The Sepulchres of our Departed, by F. R. Anstey, Esq., Hagerstown, Md.

CORNER OF 11TH STREET AND PENN. AVENUE, May 7. PENN MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE Company of Philadelphia. Charter perpetual. All the profits divided among the policy-holders. This company purely mutual. Capital \$500,000. David L. Miller, president; John W. Horner, secretary. This company has declared a dividend of 25 per cent. on cash premiums received during the year 1853. Pamphlets explaining rates, advantages, &c., will be furnished parties interested, and cases are earnestly requested to examine them before insuring, as few companies offer such inducements. JAMES J. MILLER, Agent. Over banking-house, Seiden, Withers & Co. Medical examiner, J. M. Austin, M. D. Office at residence on F street, north side, one door west of 10th.

FRENCH SHIRT-BOSOMS WREST-bands, and Ruffles—a new supply just received at Gentlemen's Furnishing Store, May 28—11th St. Penn. avenue, near 44 st.

DR. VAN PATTEN, SURGEON DENTIST, Penn. avenue, between 6th and 7th sts., next to Todd's Hat Store. Sep 21-4f

CHINA, GLASS, AND EARTHENWARE.—ESTABLISHED, 7th street, between Louisiana avenue and D street. THE SUBSCRIBER HAS JUST RECEIVED from the north, a splendid assortment of China, Glass, and Earthenware, including various Grandolles and Lamps of many patterns, adapted for halls and parlors. Paints, boiled and raw, linseed oil, putty, window glass, every variety of hardware, Clocks, brushes, &c., and every article for general housekeeping kept for sale. C. S. WHITTELEY, 7th street. Nov 20—1y

FURNITURE.—A Good and Large Assortment of China, Card, Work, Side, and Extension Dining Tables, of every description, and superior quality. Sofas, Teas-tables, Divans, Easy Rocking and Parlor Chairs of every description. Secretaries and Bureaus, Desks and Benches. LOOKING GLASSES OF EVERY DESCRIPTION. Mattresses, Curled Hair, Hair Settings, and Chair Springs, with numerous other articles suitable for housekeepers, which will be sold at less prices than can be purchased elsewhere. WRIGHT & CROSBY, Louisiana avenue, opposite the Bank of Washington, near the corner of 7th street. Notice the Pedestals sign. May 24—8m.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, THAT I have lost a Land Warrant Certificate for the acres No. 78,224, in favor of Neri & Sons, Lloyd B. Smith, Lewis Clark Smith, Benjamin Yost Smith, and Rosan & Franz, collateral heirs of Hiram M. Smith deceased, of company H, 5th United States Infantry, and which said certificate was assigned to the undersigned. This certificate was mailed by Johnston, Brothers & Co., of Baltimore, on the 18th October, 1853, directed to William F. Williams, esq., of Washington, D. C., and was never received. It is my intention to apply for a duplicate of this warrant to the commissioner of pensions.

NERI P. SMITH, Cumberland, Maryland. Jan. 28—4f

PROSPER'S CORNET BAND.—This Band is suitable for all and purposes, and is warranted to give satisfaction to all those who may be pleased to engage them, either as Brass, Reed, or Cornetion.

From one to a number of Musicians can be had, at the shortest notice, by applying at HILBUS & HITZ'S Music Depot, Or J. F. PROSPER, Leader.

At the Band room, New Odd-Fellows' Hall, Garrison st., Navy Yard. June 5—3c

LETTER OF THE HOUSEHOLD.—A Series of Services for Domestic Worship for every morning and evening in the year, select portions of Holy Writ, and Prayers and Thanksgivings for particular occasions, with an Address to Heads of Families, edited by the Rev. John Harris, D. D., Principal of New College, St. John's Wood, London, author of the Great Teacher's Manual, &c. Just received and for sale at the Bookstore of R. FARNHAM, May 11 Corner of 11th st. and Penn. av.

TAKE NOTICE.—Housekeepers and others are reminded that the following list of articles are of the very best description, and can be purchased from the subscriber on as low terms as any other house in the city. A large assortment of goods, such as: Queensware, China, Earthenware, Glass, Turquoise, Window Glass, Vases, Britannia ware, &c., &c., &c. Goods sent to any part of the city free of charge. Country dealers will do well to call. G. S. WHITTELEY, 7th street, Opposite Seiden & Withers's Bank. Mar 16 (Star).

Congressional.

THIRTY-THIRD CONGRESS. FIRST SESSION. Senate.—Tuesday, June 13, 1854.

NEBRASKA BILL. Mr. WELLER presented the resolutions of the legislature of California, fully sustaining and approving the principles of the Nebraska bill as the proper mode of determining the question of slavery in the territories.

He said it was a gratification to the delegation in Congress from California to know that their action upon that bill had received the approval of their constituents. The resolution had passed the House with only ten dissenting votes, and the Senate with an opposition of only seven votes—a unanimity unequalled in the legislation of any other State upon this subject.</